



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 4/11/2003

GAIN Report #E23057

European Union

Biotechnology

Commission requests 12 member States to adopt GMO legislation 2003

Approved by:

Melinda Sallyards

U.S. Mission to the European Union, Brussels

Prepared by:

Peter Talks

Report Highlights:

The European Commission has warned 12 Member States over failure to implement legislation on GMOs (2001/18) and the environment. Failure to implement these rules within two months could lead to the/ European Commission taking a case to the European Court of Justice.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2], E2

Commisison requests 12 EU Member States to adopt GMO legislation

The European Commission has warned 12 EU Member States over their failure to implement key legislation on GMOs and the environment. It sent out 'reasoned opinions' to these countries, that if they do not implement the legislation within the next two months, then the Commission has the option of taking a case to the European Court of Justice.

The Directive in question, 2001/18/EC concerns the authorization procedures for GMOs, establishes principles for environmental risk assessment of GMOs and has requirements for labelling.

So far only the UK, Denmark and Sweden have implemented the Directive into their national legislation, the remaining twelve countries have not (France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria and Finland).

There is no legislative link between 2001/18 and the current proposals on traceability and labeling and feed and food controls. The countries supporting the so called de facto moratorium on GMOs of several European countries, notably France and Italy, argue that they will lift the moratorium once these latter two pices of legislation have been adopted. However, in the interim they have failed to implement the legislation required for adopting new GMO varieties in their countries.

US farmers are currently losing substantial sales to the EU due to the moratorium.

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report number	Title	Date released
E23040	European public skeptical about GM agri-food	3/31/03
E23040	EU Commission presents Co-existence paper	3/10/03

Visit our website: a complete list of USEU horticultural reports can be found on our website at www.useu.be/agri/hortireps.html. Our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html also provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. E-mail: AgUSEUBrussels@fas.usda.gov.